



**File Code:** 2820

**Date:** December 9, 2014

Dear Interested Party,

After strong considerations presented during the NEPA process for the Oil and Gas Leasing on Lands administered by the White River National Forest, I as the Responsible Official have finalized the Environmental Impact Statement and prepared the draft Record of Decision. The essential elements of the draft decision are as follows:

- 194,123 acres will be Administratively Available for Leasing
- 800,555 acres are legally closed to Oil and Gas Leasing (closed via Congressional direction including designated Wilderness, permitted ski areas, campgrounds and administrative sites.)
- 1,281,726 acres will be Closed for Oil and Gas Leasing Through Management Direction
- Amend the White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as written in Appendix D of the FEIS, and replace the adoption of the 1993 White River National Forest Oil and Gas Leasing with the 2015 White River National Forest Oil and Gas Leasing EIS and ROD
- Adoption of the stipulation requirements for administratively available lands as written in Appendix A of the FEIS, which includes a No Surface Occupancy Stipulation for all designated Roadless areas.

The FEIS and draft Record of Decision are available on-line at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=29938>. These documents are also available for review at the Rifle Ranger District or White River National Forest, Supervisor's Office.

#### **How to File an Objection and Timeframes**

This Draft Record of Decision is subject to review and objection pursuant to 36 CFR 219, Subpart B regulations. Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during designated opportunity for public comment or other opportunity in accordance with §219. All who commented on this project under §215 have standing for filing objections.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to: *Reviewing Officer* c/o USDA Forest Service, Region 2, Rocky Mountain Region, Attn. Objection Reviewing Officer-Planning Department, 740 Simms Street, Golden, Colorado, 80401-4720, Fax: 303-275-5134, or e-mail to [r02f15admin\\_review@fs.fed.us](mailto:r02f15admin_review@fs.fed.us)



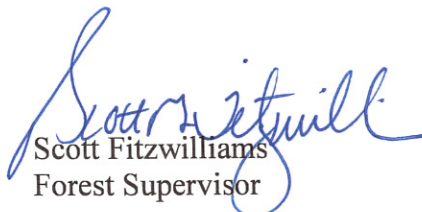
Objections must be submitted within 60 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the *Glenwood Springs Post Independent*. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

It is the objector's responsibility to provide sufficient evidence and rationale for why an independent Forest Service review and resolution of issues should be conducted. The objection must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 219.54. Under this provision (a) all objections must be filed, in writing, with the reviewing officer. All objections are open to public inspection during the objection process. (b) Including documents by reference is not allowed, except for the following list of items that may be referenced by including the name, date, page number (where applicable), and relevant section of the cited document. All other documents or Web links to those documents, or both must be included with the objection, if referenced in the objection. (c) At a minimum, an objection must include the following: (1) the objector's name and address (§ 219.62), along with a telephone number or email address if available; (2) Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection); (3) Identification of the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection (§ 219.62). Verification of the identity of the lead objector if requested; (4) the name of the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision being objected to, and the name and title of the responsible official; (5) A statement of the issues and/or the parts of the plan, plan amendment applies; (6) A concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the proposed plan decision may be improved. If applicable, the objector should identify how the objector believes that the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision is inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy; and (7) A statement that demonstrates the link between prior substantive formal comments attributed to the objector and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment (§ 219.53(a)).

Once the 60 objection period has ended, if objections are filed, procedures for resolution will commence as described in § 219.56 and § 219.57. Once the reviewing officer renders their findings and resolutions to the findings are made, a final Record of Decision may be issued.

Additional information can be obtained from: Sarah Hankens, Rifle District Ranger and Leasable Minerals Staff, White River National Forest, 0094 County Road 244, Rifle, CO 81650, (970) 625-6840.

Sincerely,

  
Scott Fitzwilliams  
Forest Supervisor

